

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 3-22 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 3 and 4 are amended and claims 2 and 23 are canceled. No new matter is added.

I. Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants appreciate the Office Action's indication that claims 2-4 contain allowable subject matter.

II. Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102 and 35 U.S.C. §103

The Office Action rejects claims 1, 5-12, 16, 21 and 22 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over JP 07-014489 (Matsushita '489). The Office Action also rejects claims 14-18, 20 and 23 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Matsushita '489 in view of JP 07-211212 (Matsushita '212). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of allowable claim 2. For at least this reason, withdrawal of the rejection of claim 1 is respectfully requested.

III. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1 and 3-22 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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